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phenomenon as simple — are clearly explained, and illustrated by experiments, sometimes new, always well arranged.

Lectures of this kind should have two objects, — to describe the phenomena, and state and explain the laws governing the science as fully as possible; and to give the audience an interest in the subject, and a curiosity that will lead to a further study of it. They should give an impulse toward thought, with some material for thinking on. So viewed, Professor Forbes has succeeded.

The first five lectures — on potential, electric currents, magnetism, electro-magnetism, and electro-magnetic induction — are extremely satisfactory: the last, on dynamo-electric machinery, would have been better omitted. It does not logically continue what has come before, nor is it, even considered apart from the other lectures, in any way as satisfactory as they are.

Taken as a whole, however, the lectures are to be commended for the clearness of exposition, accuracy of statement, and the very interesting way in which they are written.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

A CYPRUS Exploration Fund has been formed in London, the object of which will be to carry on archaeological researches similar to those of the Palestine Exploration Fund. The committee of this fund have applied to the high commissioner of Cyprus for permission to excavate in the island. This application was supported by a special resolution addressed to the secretary of state for the Colonies by the trustees of the British Museum. Permission has now been obtained in respect of one site, the village of Kouklia, which stands on the site of the ancient Paphos; and operations have begun there, on a large scale, which promise to yield results of exceptional interest, the special object in view being the great temple of Venus. The work is being carried out by students of the British School at Athens, under the supervision of the director, Mr. Ernest Gardner, whose services, and a contribution of £150, were placed at the disposal of the Cyprus Exploration Fund by the managing committee of the school. The same sum has been contributed respectively by the University of Cambridge (from the Worts Travelling Fund), the University of Oxford, and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies. Individual subscriptions amounting to upwards of £600 have been received.

— George S. Mackenzie, secretary of the Emin Pacha Relief Committee, publishes the following news, which was sent by mail from Zanzibar: "It is reported in the *Bazaar* here that Tippo-Tip, after some delay, has sent a number of his men to Mr. Stanley's camp on the Aruvimi." This news, which is published with some reserve, is very gratifying, as it shows the desire of Tippo-Tip to carry out the engagements he entered into with Stanley. The arrival of Tippo's party would enable Major Barttelot to despatch without delay the ammunition and reserve stores from the camp of Yambuga, at the mouth of the Aruvimi, to Wadelai. Although Stanley's progress was evidently not as rapid as was assumed in the plan, it is not necessary to entertain serious apprehensions as to the safety of his expedition. When it was stated that news of Stanley would probably reach us early in March, it was assumed that the steamers of the Kongo Association would visit the stations at Aruvimi and Stanley Falls. The steamer 'Stanley' was to be despatched to these places under the command of Captain van der Velde. Unfortunately this able officer died at Leopoldville a few weeks ago, his death being announced in the latest issue of the *Mouvement Géographique*. He explored the lower Obangi and its tributaries, the Itimbiri, and made an unsuccessful attempt to reach the Welle, starting near the most northern point of the great bend of the Kongo. His death has delayed the expedition to Stanley Falls, and for this reason it is assumed that the first news of Stanley will reach us *via* Zanzibar. As, however, communication between the Mvutan Nsige and the coast is very irregular, it is hard to tell when definite and reliable news will reach us.

— On Feb. 17 the first memorial erected to a public man in the Brighton Museum was unveiled there in the shape of a marble medallion portrait of the late distinguished scientist, Dr. Thomas Davidson, the first chairman of the museum committee, and whose lifelong study of brachiopoda won for him a foremost name in the ranks of paleontologists.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

##### The Snow-Snake and the r-Sound.

THE evidence on the Southern use of the snow-snake is certainly not what was expected, and, with my experience of Indian traditions, is not satisfactory. Passing by this, I will mention two things noticed while on the reservation to-day. Many Seneca snow-snakes are now made there, and these differ from the Onondaga in being flat on the opposite surfaces, with the edges slightly rounded. A good crust being lacking, an enterprising Indian had made a gutter in the snow by the roadside, about fifty rods long, and was getting a little money by its use from a number of boys.

I looked up the name carefully. It had been written for me, as before stated, and I had somewhat hastily asked several its name when last there, without noticing any discrepancy. Now, it appeared that Mr. Hewitt was partially right; but every man, woman, and child gave it as *ka-wen-tah*, or *ka-wen-tah*, changing the supposed *r* into *n* uniformly, and sometimes hardening the *k* into *g*. As I paid special attention to the second syllable, my own orthography stands corrected in this case, and that of Mr. Hewitt also. I also corrected one other word in which I made a similar error in some casual work.

In testing the version of the Lord's Prayer given me, a second time, the question is not so clear. I am not in the least troubled with *otosis*, and had used reasonable care, but without regard to the objection now made. The first three instances in which I then retained the letter may be called doubtful. I went over them again with my old friend Albert Cusick, and although the letter seemed there as the words were read, — and perhaps ordinary speech is the true test, — yet the sound almost disappeared when each syllable was taken by itself. In the fourth, where a clause was paraphrased rather than translated, there is less room for uncertainty. The sound is fuller, and is not readily dispensed with. But for its rarity elsewhere, I certainly should retain it there.

The last test I used was with the numerals given by Schoolcraft in his Onondaga vocabulary. He credits some words in it to the Mohawk. I do not remember that he does these, but they are not of the Onondaga language. In the first ten Onondaga numerals, *r* does not occur.

It is evident, of course, that Zeisberger incorporated many Mohawk words in his Onondaga lexicon, and his early study of that tongue perhaps sufficiently accounts for this; but how he could have spent the time he did at Onondaga, for the sole purpose of studying the language, and yet used this letter so much, and even in proper names, without its partial use by the central nation, is not easily understood.

One of the eminent authorities cited for the early disuse of the letter seems merely to quote from another, but some historical facts may have been overlooked. The Jesuit missions at Onondaga were abandoned late in the seventeenth century, though the missionaries sometimes came there very early in the eighteenth. In preparing a list of historic Onondagas, I took notice of a half-century of this *post-Jesuit* period. From 1725 to 1775, I found the names of fifty-seven Onondagas, and twenty-three of these contained the letter *r*. *Teyawarunte*, an Onondaga sachem, was speaker in 1775, as he had been long before. The year previous, the Onondaga sachems had a private audience with the new Indian agent, Col. Guy Johnson, and some of their distinguished men were presented to him. In the names of four out of the eight mentioned, is found the nominally obsolete letter. Here I leave the question.

W. M. BEAUCHAMP,

Baldwinsville, N.Y., March 8.

##### Needed — An Improved Means of attaching Microscopical Objectives.

THE recent interesting discussion in *Science* regarding the defects of existing microscopes ought to lead to practical results. While the subject is under consideration, every detail ought to be passed under review, or rather studied *de novo*, accepting no legacies of the past, no matter how useful they may have been in their day, provided we can find better devices. One very important thing to be considered is the means whereby objectives are to be attached to the tube of the microscope. Obviously, what we need for this purpose is a device so simple it can be easily manufactured and